PAN Card

1149. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a\the actual number of Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards issued during the current financial year;

whether it is fact that there are a number of instances of duplicate PAN card issued and Demat account opened using them; and

if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such duplication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. , PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The number of PAN cards issued by the PAN service providers M/s. UTITSL and M/s. NSDL during current financial year, till 03.03.2008, are 1,16,29,940.

Yes Sir, Approximately 4% of the PAN holders were found to be in possession of duplicate PAN. However, no cases where demat accounts have been opened using duplicate PANs have been reported by the National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) and Central Depository Services Ltd. (CSDL).

Submission of proof of identity and address, along with PAN application form has been made mandatory. PAN service providers, i.e. UTITSL and NSDL are required to check and match details filled in the PAN application form with such supporting documents. Penal provisions have also been provided in the Income-tax Act as deterrance against obtaining more than one PAN cards. Further, an education drive has been launched to educate tax payers about the consequences of possessing more than one PAN.

Check on inflationary pressure

1150. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there has been a divergence of opinion between him and the Governor of Reserve Bank of India relating to inflation in the country;

if so, the details thereof and how Government is considering this matter to put a check on the increase of inflation in the country;

how far the pensioners, agriculture sector and the prices of fertilizers, oil and food would be adversely affected as a result of hike in inflation; and

how should matter be brought to an end for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The year-on-year inflation as on February 23,2008 for food grains, edible oils and fertilizers was 3.00 per cent, 13.19 per cent and 1.80 per cent, respectively as compared to 9.66 per cent, 13.29 per cent and 1.83 per cent, respectively as on February 24, 2007. Impact of inflation on different sections of the society depends on the composition of their respective consumption basket. The Monetary policy of Reserve Bank of India, while being conducive to economic growth has attempted to contain inflationary expectations arising out of uncertainties in domestic and international environment. Containment of inflation also remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the